

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

May 1998

		Time	Path	Path	Number of		Estimated		May	
		Local/	Length	Width	Persons		Damage			
Location	Date	Standard	(Miles)	(Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	Character of Storm	
TEXAS West										
TXZ045>048-050>052-057>063-067>070-074>075-079>082			Gaines - Dawson - Borden - Scurry - Andrews - Martin - Howard - Van Horn/Guadalupe Mountains Area - Reeves County And Upper Trans Pecos - Loving - Winkler - Ector - Midland - Glasscock - Ward - Crane - Upton - Reagan - Davis Mountains - Pecos - Presidio Valley - Marfa Plateau - Big Bend Area - Terrell							
	01	0000CST			0	0			Drought	
	31	2359CST								
	Drought conditions continued in Southwest Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Midland/Odessa NWS office recorded only 0.02" of precipitation for the entire month, breaking the record minimum amount of 0.06". Marathon, TX and Carlsbad, NM received no precipitation for the month. Agricultural losses will be great but will not be included until the end of the drought or the end of the harvest when totals are calculated.									
Andrews County										
Andrews	14	2235CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)	
	The first cell in the region began in western Andrews County and intensified rapidly as it approached the city of Andrews.									
Scurry County										
Snyder	15	0040CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)	
	A Pacific Cold Front pushed eastward into the Permian Basin late on the evening of the 14th. 00Z soundings in the area showed a fairly strong capping inversion that was suppressing deep convection in the area. Increasing low level winds and moisture combined to break the cap in western Andrews County. Surface temperatures were in the 75-80 degree range with dew points in the mid 60s. Winds were very strong on both sides of the front enabling upward motion, due to the resulting convergence, to break through the -73 J/kg cap as seen from the modified 00z sounding. CAPE values were near 3800 J/kg. Soon after the Andrews County storm developed a line of small cells began to form along the front that stretched from Lubbock to Odessa. As the line of storms moved into richer moisture it filled in completely and there was an almost continuous line of 50+ dBz echoes once the convection reached a line from north of Snyder to Big Lake.									
Mitchell County										
Colorado City	15	0050CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)	
Mitchell County										
Colorado City	15	0053CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)	
Mitchell County										
10 E Colorado City	15	0120CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)	
	Dime size hail fell on the Mitchell-Nolan county line.									
Jeff Davis County										
2 NW Ft Davis	17	2108CST			0	0	30K		Thunderstorm Wind	
	Winds from a collapsing thunderstorm damaged the hospital exhibit building at the Fort Davis National Historic Site. A sixty foot section of the porch along with columns and a 12-foot overhang for the porch were all thrown on top of the roof of the structure.									
Brewster County										
1 N Alpine	17	2154CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)	
	Downbursting thunderstorm winds gusted to 58 mph at a radio station in Alpine.									
Presidio County										
21 WNW Marfa	18	2110CST 2115CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G62)	
	A thunderstorm moving to the northeast through northwestern Presidio County formed a bow as it crossed U.S. Highway 90. A 62 knot gust was recorded at the Marta Aerostat site. Power was lost at the site for about 5 hours.									
Jeff Davis County										
10 NW Ft Davis	18	2155CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G54)	
	The cluster of storms that affected Presidio County then moved to the northeast into the Davis Mountains where a 62 mph gust was recorded at the McDonald Observatory.									
Reeves County										
7 SE Saragosa	18	2255CST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind	
	The storms then exited the mountains, weakened but still had a downburst during its collapse that blew a satellite dish into a car's windshield. The windshield was smashed and also there was minor roof damage to a house in the area due to the wind. No rain fell during the event, but dust was raised that brought the visibility to near "zero".									
Reagan County										
Big Lake	25	1730CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)	
Mitchell County										
Colorado City	25	1821CST			0	0			Hail (2.50)	
Mitchell County										
2 E Colorado City	25	1840CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)	
Scurry County										
4 SE Dunn	25	1850CST			0	0	150K		Hail (2.75)	
	This storm was a supercell with a moderate to strong anti-cyclonically rotating updraft. The storm entered Scurry County from the south out of Mitchell County and dropped large hail over much of eastern Scurry County. In the China Grove community baseball size hail was reported.									
Scurry County										
Hermleigh	25	1915CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)	

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				Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	
TEXAS West Scurry County 5 ENE Snyder	25	1923CST		0	0			Hail (2.00)
<p>The same storm that passed through China Grove and Hermleigh pounded a prison east of Snyder with 2-inch diameter hail. The storm was still showing signs of rotation at this point. As the storm moved into northeastern Scurry County the rotation broadened and the storm lost its overhang radar signature. This was in a very sparsely populated section of the county and no other reports were received.</p> <p>Late in the afternoon of the 25th a cluster of thunderstorms formed near the Reagan/Irion County line near the intersection of a cold front and the dry line. The cells on the southern and eastern parts of the cluster moved into the southeasterly surface winds, whereas the western and northern cells developed northeastward into the northerly flow behind the cold front. The former storms remained in the San Angelo area of responsibility, but the latter storms moved northward into Scurry County. Surface dew point temperatures were in the mid 60s on both sides of the front.</p> <p>The first report in Big Lake was a cell that developed near this cluster along the dry line. The Scurry County storm was moving much like a left-split storm with a reflectivity gradient on its north side. Also a moderate to strong anti-cyclonically rotating updraft was present for about a 20 mile stretch in Scurry County. Large hail pounded the countryside and covered U.S. Highway 84 near Hermleigh where a traffic accident, partly blamed on the hail-slickened roads, and poor visibilities, caused three injuries. This storm was moving to the NNE at 32 knots into a 15 kt northeasterly surface wind, making for a 40-50 knot relative inflow. Property damage was approximately \$120,000 on houses and \$30,000 on cars.</p>								
Dawson County 12 NE Lamesa	25	1955CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
Borden County 17 NW Gail	25	2000CST		0	0			Hail (1.50)
Borden County 14 NE Gail to 11 NE Gail	25	2040CST		0	0	20K		Hail (2.75)
<p>Although sparsely populated, most of the people of north-central Borden County were pounded by this HP Supercell south of the mesocyclone. Numerous reports of broken windows in houses and vehicles were received. Animals including one coyote and one deer were killed by the hail as well as numerous rabbits, plus cattle had deep injuries and two horses had an eye put out by the wind-driven large hail.</p>								
Scurry County Fluvanna	25	2110CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
Scurry County Fluvanna	25	2112CST		0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
<p>This storm entered the area from the Texas South Plains as it moved to the southeast. It entered the area as a supercell became a well organized HP Supercell while over northern Borden and northwestern Scurry Counties. Much of the large hail was in the wrap-around area south of the mesocyclone where strong winds and large hail combined to wreak havoc. The storm turned slightly left as it moved almost due east through these counties.</p>								
Glasscock County 7.5 E Garden City	25	2103CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
<p>Golfball size hail covered Highway 158 in eastern Glasscock County</p>								
Howard County 2 S Forsan	25	2312CST		0	0			Hail (1.50)
Andrews County 17.5 W Andrews	26	1500CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
<p>This storm developed in western Andrews County along an outflow boundary from the previous night's convection.</p>								
Andrews County 5 NW Andrews	26	1528CST		0	0			Hail (2.75)
Gaines County 23 W Seminole	26	1528CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
<p>The storm in western Andrews County expanded northward into western Gaines County where golfball size hail fell on U.S. 180.</p>								
Andrews County Andrews	26	1630CST		0	0			Hail (1.75)
Andrews County West Portion	26	1630CST 2100CST		0	0			Flash Flood
<p>This nearly stationary storm dropped large amounts of rain over the western sections of Andrews County where State Highway 115, FM 181, and FM 2371 flooded. Several cars became stranded, and waters were still standing on FM 181 the following morning.</p>								

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TEXAS West									
Andrews County 16 SW Andrews	26	1700CST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
	The storm that first dropped golfball size hail two hours earlier had slowly sagged southward as it became better organized into an impressive HP Supercell. A mid-level circulation developed and a rain-filled rear-flank downdraft (RFD) surged southward across County Road 7000. Twelve utility poles were downed in this area in two groups: a group of 3 and a group of 9 separated by one mile.								
	A survey of the area determined that the damage occurred about 2-3 miles west of where the circulation passed over the road (as determined through radar and GPS comparisons). No damage was seen in the area of the circulation, therefore it was determined that this circulation never reached the ground. The damage path was slightly divergent with winds from a 340 to 325 degree direction.								
Ector County North Cowden	26	1805CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
	The Andrews County storm continued to sag southward into northern Ector County.								
Ector County 3 W Gardendale	26	1835CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)
Reeves County 7 S Saragosa	26	1520CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Pecos County 10 SW Ft Stockton	26	1630CST			0	0	50K	350K	Thunderstorm Wind
	This cluster of storms formed on the northeastern foothills of the Davis Mountains then moved to the east into southern Reeves then western Pecos Counties. As a storm approached a rural development southwest of Fort Stockton, a bow echo formed that cause d scattered damage across the grounds of a prison. Part of a roof was taken off a prison dorm and an interior wall partially collapsed. A section of the site's security fence was taken down as well. The dorm evacuated in favor of a gym for 270 inmates, then these inmates were relocated to other facilities in subsequent days. In a fanning area, 1320 acres of cotton was destroyed.								
Martin County 22 N Stanton	26	1737CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
	This storm developed on the same boundary as Andrews County storm. About the time of this report the storm briefly exhibited characteristics of a Classic Supercell, but the storm sent out an outflow boundary to the south that blocked its inflow.								
Martin County Lenorah	26	1815CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
	The storm over northern Martin County sagged southward to Lenorah.								
Martin County Stanton	26	1830CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
	This storm formed along the outflow boundary of the Lenorah storm.								
Howard County 2 N Big Spring	26	1833CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
	This storm developed on the original outflow boundary on which the Andrews and Martin County storms formed.								
Martin County 2 NE Stanton	26	1850CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Martin County 2 NE Stanton	26	1850CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Howard County 8 W Big Spring	26	1855CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)
Howard County 1 N Big Spring	26	1911CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G57)
Howard County 12 SW Big Spring	26	1922CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
	The Lenorah, Stanton, and Big Spring storms eventually merged into a large cluster that covered over 1000 square miles of eastern Martin and western and central Howard counties. This cluster began to move to the east out of the area.								
Brewster County Marathon	26	1931CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Brewster County Marathon	26	1935CST			0	0	100K		Hail (2.50)
	This small, but intense storm formed on an outflow boundary from storms to the north in Pecos County. The storm built right over the town of Marathon then slow moved to the southeast and weakened.								
Mitchell County Colorado City	26	2015CST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
Mitchell County 5 S Colorado City	26	2035CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G68)
	Measured wind gust to 78 mph.								
Terrell County 28 NNE Dryden	26	2219CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)

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<u>TEXAS West</u>									
	Multicell storms in Pecos County formed into a line with other cells to the north and moved into Terrell County where hail hit a gas plant.								
Terrell County 28 NNE Dryden	26	2234CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
	The storms began to accelerate and moved eastward out of the county.								
Reeves County 3 SSW Pecos	28	1849CST			0	1	15K		Dry Microburst
	A dry microburst on the extreme south side of Pecos caused extensive damage in the Maxey Park section of Pecos. An anemometer at the airport recorded a 69 mph gust and there was scattered damage across the southwest side of the city covering about a one square mile area.								
	Flying debris hit a woman causing a 2-inch gash in her scalp. A travel trailer was overturned, one commercial building had its entire roof blown off; at the zoo 3 chainlink fences were blown down and a cinderblock building collapsed; several large trees were downed in the area; and 2 large sliding doors at an airport hangar were damaged. Flying debris also broke vehicle windows across the south side of the city. The total wind event lasted for about 15 minutes.								
<u>NEW MEXICO Southeast</u>									
NMZ027>029	Guadalupe Mountains Of Eddy County - Eddy County Plains - Lea								
	01	0000MST			0	0			Drought
	31	2359MST							
	Drought conditions continued in Southwest Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Midland/Odessa NWS office recorded only 0.02" of precipitation for the entire month, breaking the record minimum amount of 0.06". Marathon, TX and Carlsbad, NM received no precipitation for the month. Agricultural losses will be great but will not be included until the end of the drought or the end of the harvest when totals are calculated.								
NMZ028>029	Eddy County Plains - Lea								
	14	1630MST			0	0	10.3K		High Wind (G59)
		2200MST							
	Gradient winds west of the dry line resulted in south to southwest winds sustained at 45 knots with gusts to 58 knots at the Lea County Airport in Hobbs (KHOB). A few trees were uprooted in town.								
	Gradient downsloping west winds in the wake of a Pacific Cold Front caused damage in Carlsbad. About 7 utility poles were knocked down as well as a roof taken off a mobile home. The peak gust at the Cavern City Airport (KCNM) was 59 knots.								
Lea County Eunice	19	2125MST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
		2145MST							
	A multicell severe thunderstorm moved into Eunice with torrential rains and winds at 50 with gusts to 70 mph. The complex of storms originated earlier in the afternoon in northeastern Chihuahua in the Sierra del Huesco, northwest of Presidio where temperatures were near 103 degrees with dew points in the mid to upper 30s. The storms moved quickly to the northeast, across the Davis Mountains and into southeast New Mexico. When the complex moved into Lea County dew point readings were in the lower 50s, resulting in intensification of the storms in the region.								
Lea County 15 N Tatum	25	1530MST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Lea County Hobbs	26	1502MST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
	This storm began in western Andrews County, Texas and spread northward into Gaines and then Lea County.								
Lea County Tatum	26	1630MST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Lea County 2 W Monument	26	1655MST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
	These two storms formed along the dry line and were both multicell severe storms.								